



Florida West Coast Bromeliad Society

August, 2006

REMEMBER

Please bring a friend. Guests are always welcome!!

Bring a raffle plant! Plants must have names and be sure they are free of scale.

Bring plants for show & tell.

Bring a plant for the friendship table.

This Month's Meeting

This month's meeting will be Tuesday, August 1, 2006, at Hope Presbyterian Church, 1698 S. Belcher Road, Clearwater. The doors open at 7:00 p.m. The meeting will begin at 7:30 p.m.

The speaker this month will be Dave Johnston. Dave is a member of FWCBS. Dave's nursery, Bromeliads Galore, has 2,000 different species and hybrids in pretty much all genera, including bi-generics. He will bring plants for sale and encourages everyone to bring in plants they would like to sell.

Last Month's Meeting

The 4th of July party was great fun. Wilma Murphy generously donated bromeliads from Helen Streck's for the bingo prizes. There were an incredible amount of raffle and friendship plants that members shared for the occasion. We had a few new guests, who all went home with a number of plants to start their bromeliad collections.

Linda Sheetz gave an update on the topics discussed at the Florida Council meeting held July 8th in Mt. Dora. Among the items discussed, the Council is looking for rare plant donations and encouraging people to bring plants to sell at the Extravaganza in September.

17th World Bromeliad Conference

Two FWCBS members were award winners at the World Conference held in San Diego in June. Congratulations to Michael Kiehl and Dennis Cathcart.

Dennis Cathcart: Biennial award for Best Hybridist

Michael Kiehl: Commercial Best of Show for *X Nidumea* 'Penumbra'
Best Individual Non-Blooming Specimen for a variegated form of *Quesnelia marmorata*

Commercial Best New Cultivar Award for the variegated form of *Quesnelia marmorata*

Commercial Division IV Award Best Non-Blooming Multiple Bromeliad for *Billbergia* 'Hallelujah'

Congratulations also to Joyce Brehm for **Best of Show-Horticulture** for a blooming *Billbergia alfonsi-joannis*. Joyce is the current Bromeliad Society International President.



Show & Tell for July 11, 2006

- Alton Lee: *Aechmea andersonii* (not to be confused with *Aechmea andersoniana*)
Aechmea (species unknown; seems to be related to *Aechmea dactylina*)
Vriesea 'Asahi' hybrid
Vriesea rodigasiana in a dish garden
- Gary Lund: *Tillandsia butzii*
- Andy Philyaw: *Guzmania lingulata* x *Guzmania squarrosa*
Neoregelia 'Helga's Joy'
- Linda Sheetz: *Neoregelia* 'Tangerine'
- Helga Tarver: *Tillandsia fasciculata* 'Magnificent'
Tillandsia lotteae



Tillandsia fasciculata 'Magnificent'

Upcoming Events

Seminole Bromeliad and Tropical Plant Society

Fall Tropical Plant Sale
Garden Club of Sanford
August 19 - 20, 2006
Sudi Hipsley (352- 728-5002) Bud Martin (321-363-7351)

FCBS Bromeliad Extravaganza

September 30, 2006
Miccosukee Resort & Convention Center, Miami
<http://www.fcbs.org>

Caloosahatchee Bromeliad Society Annual Sale

November 18 & 19, 2006
Terry Park, 3410 Palm Beach Blvd., Fort Myers, FL
For more information contact Larry Giroux; email: DrLarry@comcast.net

Refreshments

Only one member signed up for refreshments this month. Any food item you may wish to bring for the table will be welcome. Remember to pick up an extra raffle ticket for your contribution.

Albino Bromeliads

Occasionally, variegated bromeliads (and much more rarely, non-variegated ones), produce a pup without any chlorophyll in its leaves. The leaves of these pups are usually completely white. This is a form of albinism. Because their leaves lack chlorophyll, and thus cannot produce the sugars or "food" the plant needs, such pups will ultimately die if detached from the mother plant. So, if you wish to enjoy them, leave them attached to the mother plant, and they may survive for several years. These pups can be quite attractive. If you do not wish to keep the albino pup, then remove it as soon as possible, as it "drains" the mother plant's resources and reduces the number of pups it will produce. Some pups have a few leaves which are not entirely white. Depending upon the amount of chlorophyll they have, such pups may be able to be detached and produce a mature plant. However, they will probably need careful attention as they are usually much "weaker" than normal plants. Unfortunately, the extra stress associated with flowering often kills these plants before any worthwhile pups are produced.

By Bob Reilly (Queensland, Australia)